

## House Resolution No. 444

**Whereas**, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives feel it is altogether fitting and proper to pause from time to time to recognize individuals and organizations that have contributed to the welfare of this great state and its citizens or distinguished themselves through significant personal achievement; and

**Whereas**, the members are proud and pleased to pause to recognize Walter Bargaen, of Ashland, Missouri, Missouri's first State Poet Laureate, who will be honored at a ceremony to be hosted by the Missouri Department of Economic Development Missouri Arts Council on Wednesday, February 13, 2008, in the State Capitol; and

**Whereas**, Governor Matt Blunt created the position of Missouri Poet Laureate Executive Order, and to be considered for the position, nominees had to be a current resident of the state and were asked to submit writing samples and background information to the governor's office; and

**Whereas**, Walter Bargaen has published nine books and two chapbooks of poems over the last twenty-eight years, and among his work is The Feast: Prose Poem Sequences, which won the 2005 William Rockhill Nelson Award for best poetry book by a Missouri writer; and

**Whereas**, Walter Bargaen's work has appeared in more than one hundred magazine publications, including American Literary Review, International Quarterly, Missouri Review, and River Styx, and he has been recognized for his literary achievements as a recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts poetry fellowship in 1991 and as winner of the Quarter After Eight Prose Prize in 1996, the Hanks Prize in 1996, and the Chester H. Jones Foundation poetry prize in 1997; and

**Whereas**, Walter Bargaen holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy and a master's degree in English education from the University of Missouri-Columbia; and

**Whereas**, the Missouri Poet Laureate is responsible for helping promote the arts in Missouri by making appearances at public libraries and schools across the state, and Walter Bargaen will compose an original poem in honor of Missouri and will recite the poem at an event commemorating the new position:

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, join to extend our most sincere congratulations to Walter Bargaen on the illustrious occasion of his being named the first official Missouri State Poet Laureate, with our most sincere best wishes for every success in the future; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Walter Bargaen, as a measure of our esteem.

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Ed Robb  
District No. 24

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 444, adopted February 6, 2008.

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Rod Jetton, Speaker